



U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers
Norfolk District

RESTORATION *News*

Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Project Update • Volume 9 • March 2003

Community Input Sought On Human Remains Reburial

Due to overwhelming interest, the Corps of Engineers is hosting a community meeting on March 20 to discuss reburial of the human remains that were found near the James River beachfront.

"We are thrilled with the level of interest that we have received following some media coverage about this effort in January," says Adriane James, U.S. Army Corps Project Manager.

The community meeting will be held at the Tidewater Community College Portsmouth Campus in the Manning Building in Room 103. The meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. During the meeting, the Corps will provide a brief background on the effort, a summary of the community responses received, and allow meeting participants to share their ideas.

The remains were discovered approximately four years ago. The Corps has been coordinating its efforts with the State Historic Preservation office. The remains were sent to an anthropology lab at Radford University and a lab in Texas for DNA analysis. The remains are believed to be that of a 20- to 24-year-old African American female from the Colonial period. While only shroud pins were found in the burial site itself, test pits surrounding the site did contain artifacts dating back to the period between 1780 and 1810.



Archaeologists working at the burial site

According to the Corps' permit with the State Historic Preservation office, the reburial of the remains must take place by June 4, 2003. Tim Thompson, the Corps' Archaeologist who is leading this effort, told the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) in February that the Corps is seeking community input on a suitable

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Mark Your Calendar...

Restoration Advisory Board Meetings



April 3, 2003 &
June 5, 2003

7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

All are Welcome!

Location:

Bon Secours Health Center at
Harbour View, 5818 Harbour
View Boulevard (Suffolk)

Community Meeting



March 20, 2003
7:00 p.m.

Come and join us to discuss the
human remains reburial efforts.

Location:

TCC Manning Building, Rm 103

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location and ceremony for the reburial of the remains. He also said that he is hoping for a reburial ceremony that will allow all interested parties to participate.

The Corps has received responses from four churches interested in participating in the reburial effort and from Virginia 4th District Congressman J. Randy Forbes' office. "I hope the interested parties will get together on this and help us come up with a consensus on a suitable reburial location and ceremony," said Thompson.

The Corps has mailed letters and questionnaires to a variety of interested parties to obtain preliminary input on potential reburial locations and on the reburial ceremony.

For more information, contact Tim Thompson at 804-734-4974.

EPA Completes Chemical Warfare Material Testing at FNOD

EPA completed chemical weapons testing at the Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot (FNOD) on February 5, 2003. Testing was conducted at the Horseshoe Pond, Main Burning Ground, and J-Lake areas based on historical information, interviews with former depot employees, and historical aerial photographs.

The test detected no chemical warfare materials during the field screening. However, samples have been sent to a laboratory for further analysis. EPA told the project team that laboratory results are expected in early April.

Chemical warfare materials have **never** been found at FNOD. FNOD did not have the infrastructure to process chemical weapons. However, a 1993 Archives Search report documented one possible case of Chemical Warfare Material handling in 1945 when 20 German chemical rounds were shipped to Nansemond. Investigators believe the rounds were transferred to Aberdeen Proving Ground for processing but lack the documentation to prove it. The project team did not expect to find any chemical warfare materials on site but wanted to check one more time to be sure.

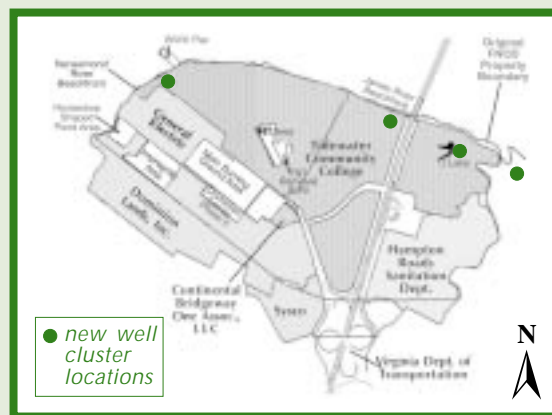
EPA will provide an update on this effort at the next FNOD Restoration Advisory Board meeting on April 3, 2003.

Groundwater Monitoring

The U.S. Army Corps has completed two rounds of sampling in seven new groundwater wells at FNOD. The deep well at the Nansemond River beachfront on GE property was the only well containing any contaminants. This well contained the organic contaminants 1,3,5-TRINITROBENZENE, TETRACHLOROETHANE, and TRICHLOROETHANE at very low levels. Nothing was detected in the shallow groundwater well at the Nansemond River beachfront. GE conducted a previous groundwater cleanup effort near this well under the guidance of the state and has been monitoring the situation for the past five years. No further action is expected by the project team.

The Corps' groundwater consultant told the RAB in February that there does not appear to be a widespread groundwater problem at FNOD. The only two sites that have confirmed groundwater problems at FNOD are the Nansemond River/GE site and the TNT area near the entrance of TCC. Groundwater contamination does not appear to have migrated very far from the TNT site.

The Corps is using data from groundwater samples taken throughout the site in a groundwater model. This computer model will help the project team predict groundwater flow directions and groundwater contaminant pathways, delineate the nature and extent of groundwater contamination, identify data gaps, and identify the best cleanup strategy for each site. The model takes into account characteristics of subsurface soil, groundwater, surface water, contaminant concentrations, and geophysical data.



New monitoring well locations

Project Updates

Ordnance & Explosives Clearing

TCC/TNT Area

Ordnance clearance efforts at TCC should be complete by April 2003. The ordnance team is working to delineate the western boundary of the affected area. They will then clear the 100-by-100 foot investigation grids that are known to contain small amounts of TNT and other ordnance related items. Most of the ordnance work at TCC is being conducted Tuesday through Thursday. Following the ordnance clearance effort in the TNT area, the Corps will begin a comprehensive soil and groundwater investigation in April 2003.

GE Main Burning Ground

There are 58 investigation grids left to clear on GE property, of which 18 to 19 are likely to benefit from mechanical sifting. The Corps is investigating the possibility of using an armored mechanical sifter. If approved, OE clearance efforts could be completed on GE property by 2005, a year to 18 months ahead of schedule and save approximately \$1 million.

Dieldrin

During confirmation sampling of soil at the Pesticide Drum area, the Corps found traces of Dieldrin. Dieldrin is a pesticide used widely during the period FNOD was active, and may have been used to control mosquitoes across much of the site. It is not the type of pesticide contained in the drums found at the site. The Corps is evaluating soil concentration levels of Dieldrin throughout the site. Dieldrin has been detected on GE and TCC property at varying levels, some

of which are very low, and some of which could require action. If the project team determines that Dieldrin exists throughout the site as a result of being applied for its intended use,

and not the result of a spill, no further action may be required. The Corps hopes to know conclusively within the next 30 days.

2002 Project Accomplishments

- Completed ordnance work on Dominion Lands property. As a result, economic development is occurring including the completion of Bridgeway Tech Center 1 office park and site plans for Bridgeway Tech Center 2.
- Completed two-thirds of the ordnance clearance work at FNOD (48 acres of the 67 acres to be cleared).
- Removed about 750,000 pounds of scrap/debris (non-ordnance related).
- Removed about 2,208 ordnance items sitewide.
- Completed the offshore environmental study. No further action is anticipated.
- Completed work at the Impregnite Kit Area. This is FNOD's first of six National Priority List sites to be delisted from the Superfund list.
- Completed initial round of confirmation sampling at Pesticide Drum Area and Track K Dump area.
- Completed two rounds of groundwater sampling and the first draft of a sitewide groundwater (computer) model.
- Completed and signed the Land Use Control Plan for FNOD to address residual ordnance-related risks.
- Completed the final report on the human remains found at the James River beachfront.
- Completed desktop/site screening audits of four additional Areas of Concern.
- Continues to reinforce positive working relationships with EPA, VDEQ, landowners, and the community.

Web Site Links

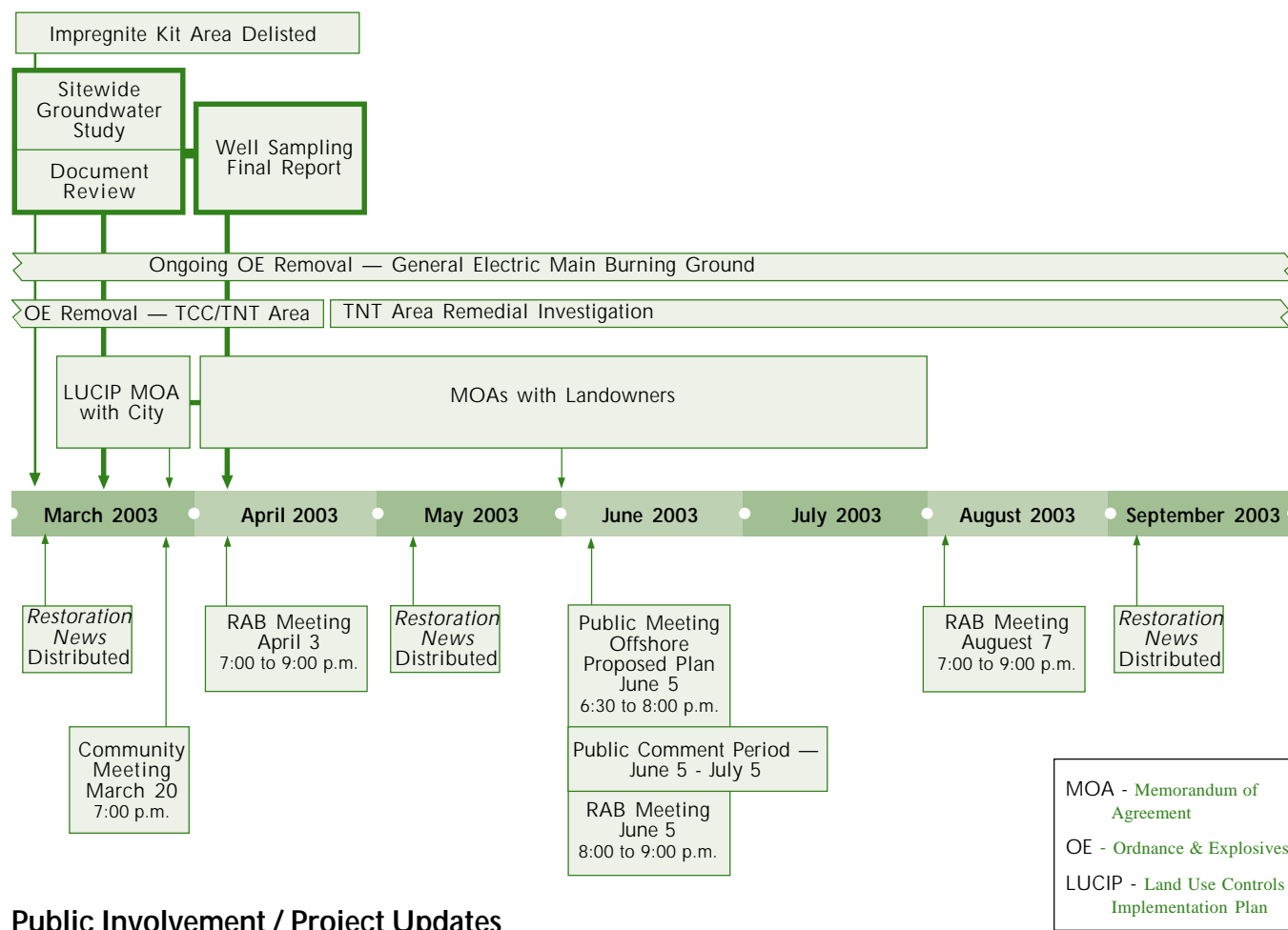
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FNOD Project Web Site:
<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/projects/nansemond/welcome.html>

Environmental Protection Agency:
<http://www.epa.gov/reg3hwmd/super/VA/nansemond/index.htm>

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ):
<http://www.deq.state.va.us>

FNOD Project Timeline

Technical Milestones



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of Engineers**
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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Norfolk District

Impregnite Kit Area To Be Delisted From NPL

EPA Deems Soil Cleanup Complete at the Impregnite Kit Area

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has successfully completed removal activities at the Impregnite Kit Area. This is the first FNOD site to be removed from EPA's Superfund list. It was a former military disposal area for impregnite kits located about 1,000 feet from the Nansemond River on Dominion Lands property. The NPL delisting is expected to be complete by the end of March.

The Impregnite Kit area, discovered in 1995, was approximately 57,255 square feet. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers removed approximately 857 tons of buried kits and

contaminated soil from December 1998 to January 1999. An EPA Region III representative oversaw all removal operations. Confirmation samples taken after the removal efforts indicate that the kits and associated soil were successfully removed.

No further action is expected for the Impregnite Kit Area except groundwater analysis.

EPA published a Notice of Intent to Delist the site from the NPL in the *Federal Register* and the *Virginian-Pilot* newspaper on January 21, 2003. Public Comments were

accepted by Robert Thomson at U.S. EPA, Region III until February 21, 2003. No comments were received.

At NPL sites, EPA evaluates all comments received before issuing a final decision on delisting and prepares a Responsiveness Summary to address any comments received. Information on this site/project can be obtained from the following project information repositories:

- Tidewater Community College (Frederick Campus) Library - Information Desk 7000 College Drive, Portsmouth (757) 822-2130
- U.S. EPA Region III Library 1650 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029, (215) 814-5254
- Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Project Web site at <http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Projects/Nansemond/welcome.html>

What is an Impregnite Kit?

Impregnite kits were issued to soldiers in World War II to make the undergarments of military issue chemical suits impermeable to chemical agents. These kits contained two substances: a) XXCC3, which is a fine, white granular crystal powder, and b) a black waxy material or honey-like syrup.



Impregnite Kit

EPA will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* as a final step in the delisting process.

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Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) News

New RAB Member Opportunities

The Corps welcomes more community involvement. If you are interested in receiving information about joining the RAB, please contact Sandra Chaloux at s.chaloux@ce-com.com or 800-232-7074.

All RAB meetings are open to the public!

RAB Meeting Location

RAB meetings are held at Bon Secours Medical Center at 5818 Harbour View Boulevard (Suffolk). See the FNOD project web site for directions.

New RAB Email List

The Corps is now developing a list of interested parties who want to receive RAB meeting information via email versus regular mail. If you would like to begin receiving RAB meeting notices via email...please forward your email address to Sandra Chaloux at s.chaloux@ce-com.com.

RAB MEMBER LIST

Adriane James

USACE, Project Manager/
Gov't Co-Chair
757-441-7701

Bea Rogers

Community Co-Chair
757-484-6001

James Bennett

Dominion Lands
804-819-2352

Fred Copeland

General Electric
757-483-5485

Russ Dudley

VDOT
804-786-5588

Tim Fink

TCC
757-822-1177

Bruce Johnson

Respass Beach
757-686-9129

Tom O'Grady

City of Suffolk
757-923-3621

Debbie Miller

VDEQ
804-698-4206

Dave Saunders

Bennett's Creek
757-484-4514

Rob Thomson

EPA
215-814-3357

Cherie Walton

Reactivities Management
Alternate Co-Chair
757-436-1033

2003 RAB Meeting Dates:

April 3, 2003

June 5, 2003

August 7, 2003

October 2, 2003

December 4, 2003

For More Information:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Norfolk District

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Email: s.chaloux@ce-com.com

Information Repository

Tidewater Community College Library

7000 College Drive

Portsmouth, VA 23703

Phone: (757) 822-2130

Hours: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday

Project Website

<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Projects/Nansemond/welcome.html>

Reply Card

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District

The Former Nansemond Ordnance Depot Project

- ☐ I'd like to receive information about joining the RAB.
- ☐ I'd like to receive RAB meeting information by _____ email or by _____ regular mail.
- ☐ I'd like to be removed from the mailing list.

Topics I'd like to see in future issues of *Restoration News*:

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Affiliation _____

Phone _____ E-mail: _____